

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19 GAC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /157 W
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R 051642 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8966

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 9550

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR FR CG

SUBJ: MOBUTU INTERVIEW WITH LE MODE

REF: PARIS 75 77

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED APRIL 5 WITH LE MODE, AFRICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF DECRAENE, ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU CONFIRMED DECISION TO PURCHASE 15 FRENCH MIRAGES. MOBUTU SAID ZAIRIAN AIRFORCE NEEDED THREE SQUADRONS OF MIRAGES BUT SINCE PURCHASE PRICE OF 45 JET AIRCRAFT OF THIS QUALITY WAS HIGH, ZAIRE WOULD BEGIN BY ACQUIRING ONLY FIFTEEN. ZAIRE HE CLAIMED ALREADY HAD ENOUGH TRAINED PILOTS AND AFTER THREE MONTHS ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN FRANCE THEY WOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO PILOT NEW AIRCRAFT. MOBUTU ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OTHER KINDS OF FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SAID ZAIRE AIRFORCE WAS EQUIPPED WITH ALOUETTE II AND III HELICOPTERS AND HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY ORDERED 30 PUMA HELICOPTERS.

2. MOBUTU IN DISCUSSING OVERALL ZAIRIAN RELATIONS WITH FRANCE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH UNITED STATES DOING MORE FOR ZAIRE THAN FRANCE, ZAIRE HELD FIRMLY TO ITS INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER IMPORTANT AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID MIGHT BE, ZAIRE INTENDED TO BUY WHEREVER SUITABLE. PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY MISSION AT KINSHASA DI

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, CG, FR, n/a
To: BANGUI
BRUSSELS
BUJUMBURA
EUR
KAMPALA
KHARTOUM
KIGALI

KINSHASA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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